

## TEST DRIVE

# Ebbtide 26

With a top-end speed of a 59 mph, this roomy deckboat has the heart of a slick little speedster. **By Tim Banse**



### EBBTIDE 26

#### SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	26'6"
BEAM	8'6"
DISP.	5,200 LBS.
FUEL	70 GALS.

EBBTIDE BOATS  
WWW.EBBTIDEBOATS.COM

PRICE (W/TEST POWER):  
\$62,881

The new 2600 Fun Cruiser from this 40-year-old builder is a deckboat hybrid. It's as sporty looking and performance-oriented as a bowrider yet it's designed to maximize usable space in the cockpit, where there's room for about a dozen of your closest friends.

Did I mention it's fast? She buzzes along at 59 mph, corners like a champ and takes her lumps easily when big wakes get in her way. The hull, a new design for Ebbtide, has double-vented chines that enhance maneuverability. I like the adjustable captain's seat

at the helm, with its high back and shock-absorbing suspension. The chair held me like a glove as the boat rocketed along Percy Priest Lake in the builder's home state of Tennessee.

In the forward section, bow lounges convert to one big sunpad when a filler cushion is set in place. The aft cockpit has a table, sink and controls for the JBL stereo system with I-Pod and MP3 connections. Concealed in a console is a head compartment that's roomy enough to double as a changing area.

Deckboats were made for active people so it's no surprise that this

one has lockers for water skis and kneeboards, plus oversized swim platforms with telescoping ladders at the bow and stern. Climb down one of those ladders and off the boat so you can really admire the Ebbtide's lines, its colorful gel coat and shiny stainless steel rails and fittings. I think the Ebbtide 2600 can burn up the water whether it's moving fast or just standing still. ♪



**HOT WHEEL:** The helm is reminiscent of a race boat.

## PERFORMANCE

**TEST POWER:** (1) 425-hp MerCruiser gas stern-drive. Max-rated hp is 425 horsepower.

RPM	MPH	GPH	DB-A
650	3.5	1.1	67
1000	9.3	1.9	69
1500	15.1	2.9	69
2000	18.4	5.9	78
2500	22.0	9.5	82
3000	30.7	9.8	89
3500	36.1	14.1	90
4000	42.0	19.1	91
4500	53.6	27.7	91
4950	59.2	30.5	91

Speeds measured by GPS on Tennessee's Percy Priest Lake in calm conditions with four people on board, half fuel and no water. Sound levels recorded at the helm in dB-A.

#### THRILLS AND CHILLS:

The Ebbtide 2600 has plenty of V-8 horsepower to pull skiers or wakeboarders. During our test, acceleration came on very strong: Time-to-plane was a short five seconds. By the way, those lightning-strike cutouts on the side of the boat do more than just make the Ebbtide look radical; they also improve hole shot and handling. Dubbed Z-Traks, they are double-vented chines that ram air under the hull to lift it higher in the water.

#### GOOD MANNERS:

Pushed hard into a tight corner, the hull went precisely where it was pointed with no prop blowout. With adult supervision, a kid could drive this boat. Depending on the engine and surface conditions, range should be close to 200 miles.